

Message Text

PAGE 01 VIENTI 05538 090237Z

62

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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R 090200Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5296

INFO SECDEF

DEPCHJUSMGATHAI

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 5538

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, LA

SUBJECT: THAI SGU STRENGTH

REF: A. FBIS/BANGKOK 311235Z JUL 73

B. STATE 15149 (PARA 5)

1. REFS REPORT ERRONEOUS CLAIM OF THAI SOURCES THAT THAI SGU PERSONNEL WILL BE REDUCED FROM 15,000 TO 3,000 BY END OF AUGUST.

2. IN THIS CONTEXT, FOLLOWING ACCURATE AND UPDATED INFORMATION MAY BE USEFUL TO ADDRESSEES: IN A PLANNED REDUCTION BEGINNING JULY 4, SGU STRENGTH CONTRACTED FROM 27 INFANTRY AND 3 ARTILLERY BATTALIONS TO 15 AND 2, RESPECTIVELY AS OF JULY 17. NUMBER OF SGU PERSONNEL PRESENT FOR DUTY DROPPED FROM 12,209 IN JULY TO 8,974 ON AUGUST 4. MOST SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS WERE IN MR'S ONE AND TWO. WITHDRAWAL OF THAI PERSONNEL FROM MR TWO HAS REQUIRED RELOCATIONS IN MR TWO OVERALL DEFENSE PLAN.

3. CURRENT PLANS CALL FOR FURTHER REDUCTIONS TO 9 INFANTRY BATTALIONS AND ONE ARTILLERY BATTALION, TOTAL AUTHORIZED STRENGTH 6,220 BY DECEMBER 31. THIS WITH-
SECRET

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DRAWAL SCHEDULE IS, OF COURSE, SUBJECT TO ADJUSTMENTS THAT BECOME NECESSARY TO COMPLY WITH LAO AGREEMENT FOLLOWING FORMATION AND INVESTITURE OF NEW LAO COALITION GOVERNMENT.

DEAN

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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